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### What They Do

Construction Trades Helpers (All Others) assist skilled trades workers in a variety of construction occupations. They are neither apprentice workers nor construction laborers. Helpers perform a variety of unskilled tasks and provide much of the routine physical labor needed in construction. They may help carpenters, plumbers, electricians, plasterers, cement masons, brickmasons, roofers, cabinetmakers, floor covering installers, glaziers, painters, and others working in home and commercial construction. Duties including using, supplying, or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment.

### Tasks

- ▶ Carry or move equipment, tools, and materials to the work site.
- ▶ Set up ladders.
- ▶ Mix cement.
- ▶ Build forms.
- ▶ Construct scaffolding.
- ▶ Cut carpeting.
- ▶ Carry lumber and bricks from delivery trucks to the construction site.
- ▶ Dig trenches.
- ▶ Tear out and remove old building materials on remodeling projects.
- ▶ Gather equipment and supplies at the construction site.
- ▶ Clean up at the end of work days.

*Detailed descriptions of this occupation may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org).*

### Important Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- ▶ Equipment Selection — Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.
- ▶ Installation — Installing equipment, machines, wiring or programs to meet specifications.
- ▶ Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

## Construction Trades Helpers

# Construction Careers

- ▶ **Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- ▶ **Active Learning** — Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
- ▶ **Speaking** — Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- ▶ **Building and Construction** — Knowledge of materials, methods, and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, buildings, or other structures such as highways and roads.
- ▶ **Mechanical** — Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- ▶ **Information Ordering** — The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
- ▶ **Selective Attention** — The ability to concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted.
- ▶ **Oral Comprehension** — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
- ▶ **Arm-Hand Steadiness** — The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
- ▶ **Dynamic Strength** — The ability to exert muscle force repeatedly or continuously over time. This involves muscular endurance and resistance to muscle fatigue.
- ▶ **Manual Dexterity** — The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- ▶ **Speech Clarity** — The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.

### Work Environment

Helpers work at construction sites and may work outdoors either on ground or rooftops, or inside office buildings, warehouses, or private homes. Helpers working outdoors are exposed to all types of weather.

Helpers do repetitive, physically hard work. Some jobs may expose workers to harmful materials, fumes, loud noises, or dangerous machinery. Workers must wear hard hats, safety eye goggles, and sometimes masks. Many Helpers and other laborers belong to the Laborers' International Union of North America.

Helpers work eight to twelve hour shifts, and may work evening or swing shifts.

# Construction Trades Helpers

## California's Job Outlook and Wages

The California Outlook and Wage table below represents the occupation across all industries.

Standard Occupational Classification	Estimated Number of Workers 2004	Estimated Number of Workers 2014	Average Annual Openings	2006 Wage Range (per hour)
<b>Helpers, Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters</b>				
47-3011	8,000	9,700	500	\$10.08 to \$16.27
<b>Helpers, Carpenters</b>				
47-3012	8,900	10,800	560	\$9.76 to \$13.69
<b>Helpers, Electricians</b>				
47-3013	5,700	6,200	290	\$11.16 to \$16.71
<b>Helpers, Painters, Paperhangers, Plasterers, and Stucco Masons</b>				
47-3014	3,500	4,100	200	\$8.95 to \$13.20
<b>Helpers, Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters</b>				
47-3015	6,300	7,800	410	\$10.30 to \$15.28
<b>Helpers, Roofers</b>				
47-3016	2,300	2,800	150	\$9.21 to \$12.77
<b>Helpers, Construction Trades, (All Other)</b>				
47-3019	1,700	1,700	70	\$10.06 to \$15.33

*Wages do not reflect self-employment.*

*Average annual openings include new jobs plus net replacements.*

*Source: [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov), Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.*

## Trends

This group of occupations will have a faster than average growth rate during the 2004–2014 projections period. Also, employment in the Specialty Trade Contractors industry will grow faster than average compared with all occupations in California.

## Training/Requirements/Apprenticeships

Construction Trades Helpers usually follow one of the following training paths:

- ▶ Vocational school
- ▶ Extensive on-the-job training

A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for Construction Trades Helpers jobs.

## Recommended High School Course Work

Recommended high school classes are mathematics and shop.

# Construction Trades Helpers

# Construction Careers

## Where Do I Find the Job?

Labor unions and apprenticeship councils are good places to start a job search. Direct application to employers is an effective job search method for Construction Trades Helpers.

Use the *Search for Employers by Industry* feature on the *Career Center* page at [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov) to locate employers in your area. Search using keywords from the following construction industry names to get a list of private firms and their addresses:

- ▶ Commercial Building
- ▶ Employment Placement Agencies
- ▶ Hardware Stores
- ▶ Home Centers
- ▶ Industrial Building
- ▶ New Multifamily Housing
- ▶ New Single-Family Housing
- ▶ Other Building Material Dealers
- ▶ Paint and Wallpaper Stores
- ▶ Professional Employer Organizations
- ▶ Residential Remodelers
- ▶ Temporary Help Services

For local listings of contractors, search these **yellow page** headings for listings of private firms:

- ▶ Construction Clean-Up Contractors
- ▶ Construction Consultants
- ▶ Construction Management

## Where Can The Job Lead?

Possible career paths for advancement include Construction Trade Apprentice, Journey-Level Construction Worker, Estimator, and Construction Supervisor.

## Other Sources of Information

Laborers' International Union of North America  
[www.liuna.org](http://www.liuna.org)

California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards  
[www.dir.ca.gov/das](http://www.dir.ca.gov/das)

California Department of Consumer Affairs, Contractors State Licensing Board  
[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)